

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 20329 142251Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 DODE-00 ERDA-05 MC-02 NSC-05 /072 W
----- 130632 /22

R 141800Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766
INFO USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20329
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, XT, IT, FR
SUBJECT: PCI PARTICIPATION IN WEU

REF: PARIS 36834

1. WE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO CUTTING OFF THE PROVISION OF
CLASSIFIED USG INFORMATION TO WEU SO LONG AS PCI DELEGATES TO
WEU MAY HAVE ACCESS TO IT.

2. APART FROM THE INTRINSIC SECURITY PROBLEM, TO CONTINUE SUPPLY
OF SUCH INFORMATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE, IN-HOUSE AND PUBLIC, THAT
COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS
WOULD DECISIVELY UNDERCUT OUR RATIONALE FOR KEEPING COMMUNIST
GOVERNMENTS OUT OF NATO. THIS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
FOR THE "ACCEPTABILITY" OF PCI REPRESENTATION IN THE ITALIAN
"AREA OF GOVERNMENT". IT WOULD BE PERCEIVED AND MAGNIFIED IN
THE ITALIAN AND POSSIBLY OTHER EUROPEAN MEDIA, AS A SIGNAL WHICH,
IN FACT, WE CLEARLY DO NOT WANT TO CONVEY.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, A QUIET BUT FIRM TURNING OFF OF THE TAP
AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT WOULD HAVE THE CONVERSE EFFECT,
DELIVERING AN UNMISTAKABLE MESSAGE AS TO THE FIRMNESS OF OUR
OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN SENSITIVE WESTERN
POSITIONS. THAT MESSAGE WOULD REINFORCE OUR FRIENDS AND PROVIDE
A CLEAR SETBACK TO THOSE PUSHING THE VARIANTS OF A "HISTORIC
COMPROMISE". BEAUDRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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